

Lower Oahe Waterfowl Access Areas 2014-15 Waterfowl Report

For the Week of December 8, 2014

MAIL SHACK CREEK AREA

The trails going into the north and south parking lots remain open with mud being the biggest obstacle on the warmer days. The duck numbers in this area remains high but reports from hunters are that they have not been flying out during shooting hours on most days. Hunter reports from the pits over the weekend were of a good number of geese sitting in the creek but most were coming off rather high with the calm days. There have been some birds feeding in and around a few of the walk-in fields with no reports of how any of the hunters were doing whether decoy hunting or pass shooting.

REGISTRATION AREA

The full moon phase and warm temperatures made the hunting a little more challenging late last week and into the weekend. Most of the hunters were able to harvest birds, some with limits while others settled for a bird or two each. Some of the birds did continue to fly out in the morning even with the full moon but the majority of the birds came out midafternoon. The flight should go back to a morning flight as the moon phase goes away from full. With more hunters and geese using the fields there have been some upland game hunting closures this past week, fields 61, 62, 69, 71, 75, 77 have been closed to upland game hunting. The remaining areas normally open to upland game hunting as shown in the 2014-2015 Lower Oahe maps continue to be open at this time. You can view the status of areas open or closed to hunting along with the types of crops in the fields at the bottom of the Lower Oahe page or by downloading the app to your smart phone.

PASS-SHOOTING AREAS

There have been a few out trying the pass shooting in the canal area but reports back from them are that with the lower number of birds in Okobojo Creek opportunities are limited

SOLID AND STRIPED GREEN AREAS

No new reports from the striped green area in Stanley County this week. Muddy conditions in the area could make access into the fields difficult.

SUMMARY

The full moon phase has affected most of the areas on what time the birds will fly out each day, however the birds should start coming out to feed much earlier as the moon phase moves away from full. There has been some action in the pits and fields in the Mail Shack Area but reports coming in are that the ducks are coming out after shooting hours most days. Geese coming out of this area have been coming out a little high on the calmer days with the windy days producing some good pass shooting opportunities. Some of the geese have been feeding in a few walk-in fields in this area. Hunters in the decoy only registration fields have been getting birds on most days with some able to get a limit while others are settling with a couple of birds each. The canal area has seen some activity from the pass shooters, reports coming in have been that most are coming out too high but there continues to be a few lower flocks coming out over the canal giving them some opportunities to harvest a bird or two. No new reports from the striped green area in Stanley County.

Hunters planning a trip over the holidays are reminded that the decoy-only registration trailer and fields will be closed on Christmas Day and will reopen the day after Christmas with drawings taking place one hour before sunrise.

The 25th Annual Youth Goose Hunt will be taking place on January 16, 17, 18, 2015. A flier for the event is at the bottom of this report.



25th Annual Central South Dakota Youth Goose Hunt January 16-18

The Central South Dakota Youth Goose Hunt is a free waterfowl hunt held in Pierre, for youth hunters ages 12-15. There is an information meeting held on Friday, Jan 16. The hunt will take place Saturday and Sunday mornings.

How To Seminars by industry pro staffers, Saturday meals, and prizes for all youth hunters!

When: Jan. 16-18, 2015

- Jan 16- Informational meeting starting at 7 pm at the Pierre Ramkota
- Jan 17 - Day 1 hunt
- Jan 17 - Instructional Seminars starting at 7 pm at the Pierre Ramkota
- Jan 18 - Day 2 hunt

Where: Pierre, SD

Who: Boys and Girls between the ages of 12-15

For More Information contact:

The Lower Oahe Access Trailer:
605-264-5380

Tim Withers: 605-280-6435

Sam Koenecke: 605-220-0001

Mark Wetzel: 605-222-4556

Mike Hudson 605-280-9577

Matt Barnard 605-770-1374

Space is limited!

The Ramkota is offering reduced room rates
for youth hunters!